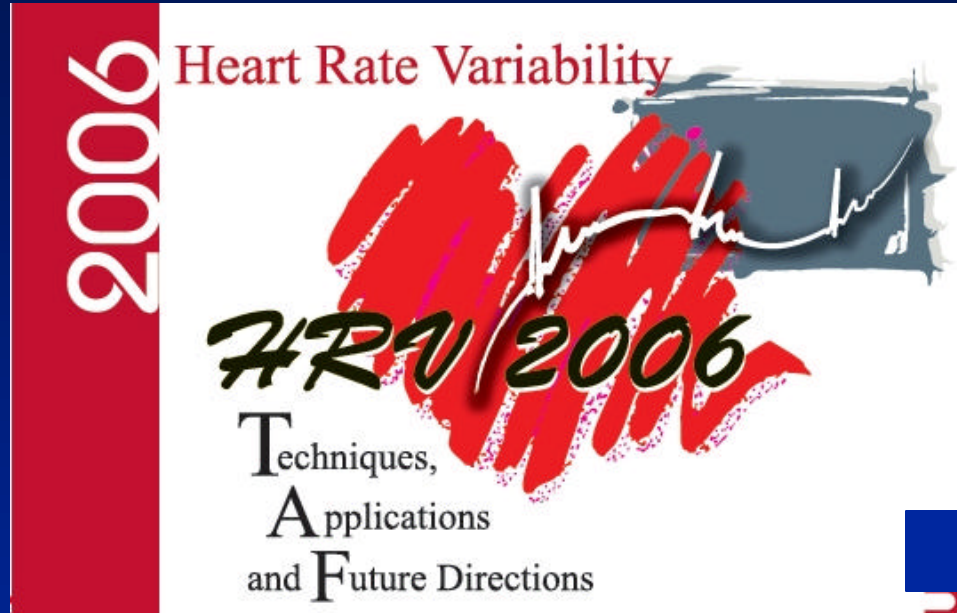


# Complexity Measures: Linguistic and Symbolic Dynamical Approaches



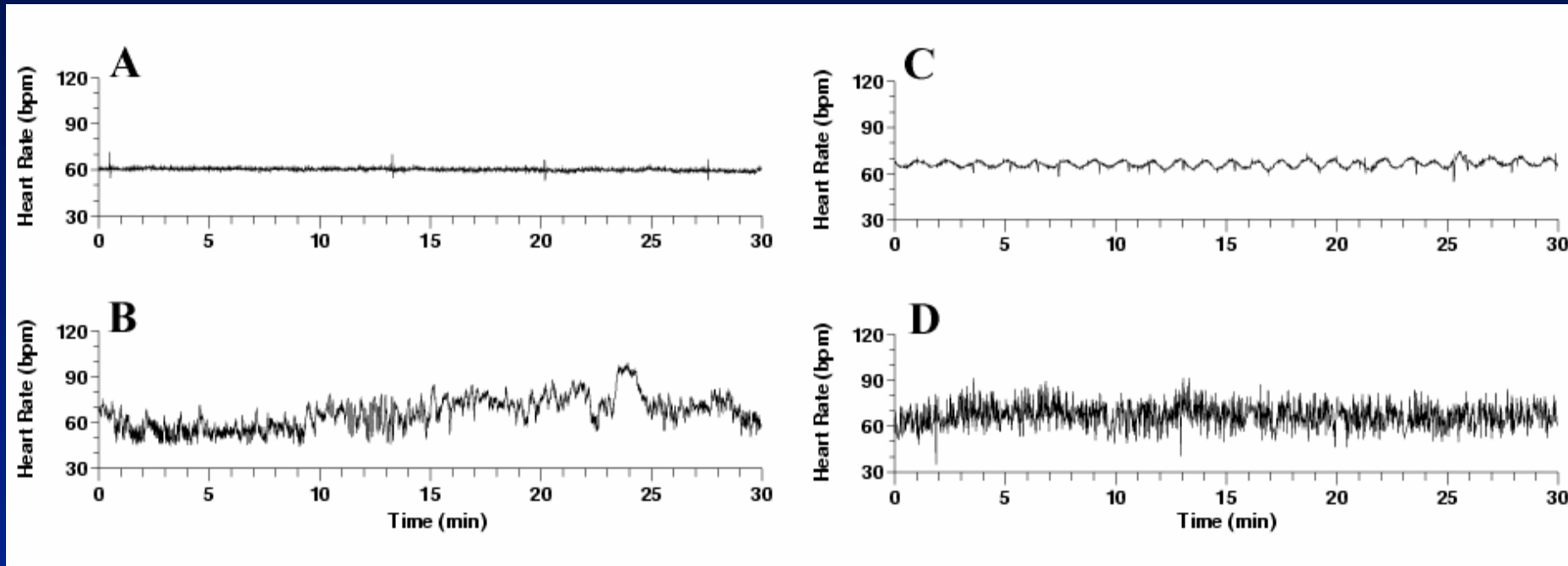
**Chung-Kang Peng, PhD**

**Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Harvard Medical School**

# Objectives

- Provide an analogy between heart rate time series and other symbolic sequences (e.g., language)
- Introduce an intuitive measurement of similarity based on repetitive patterns
- Discuss clinical applications of this linguistic approach

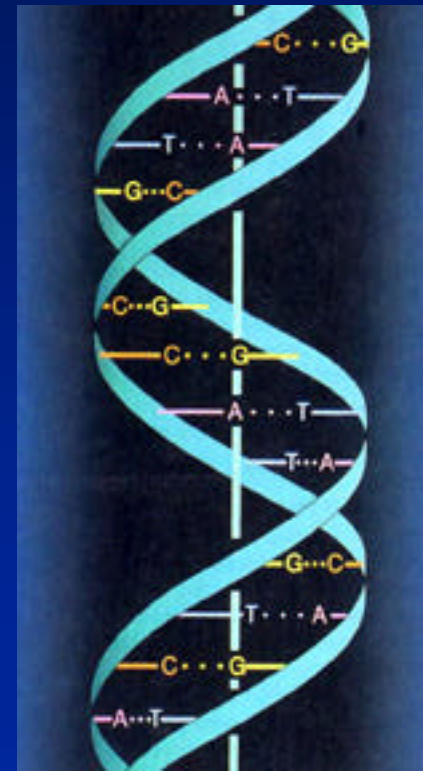
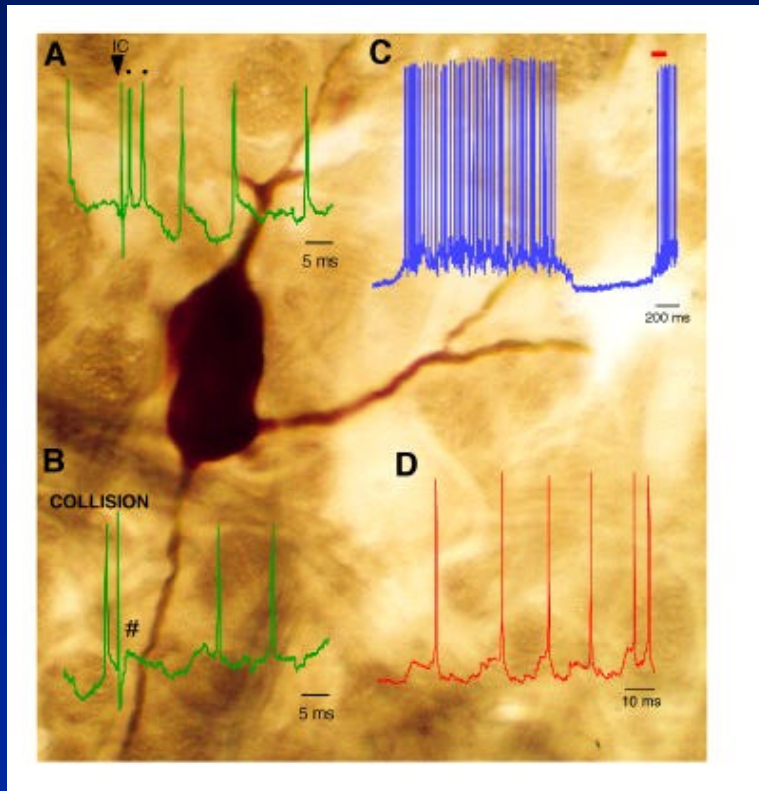
# Heart Rate Dynamics in Health and Disease



These time series contain information that reflects their underlying control mechanisms

Question: Can we usefully classify different types of information even *without* initially understanding their content?

# Information Created by Biological Systems



# Information Created by Humans



## Charles Dickens A Tale of Two Cities

### I The Period

IT WAS the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

Our approach:

Categorize complex signals based on the occurrences of *repetitive patterns*

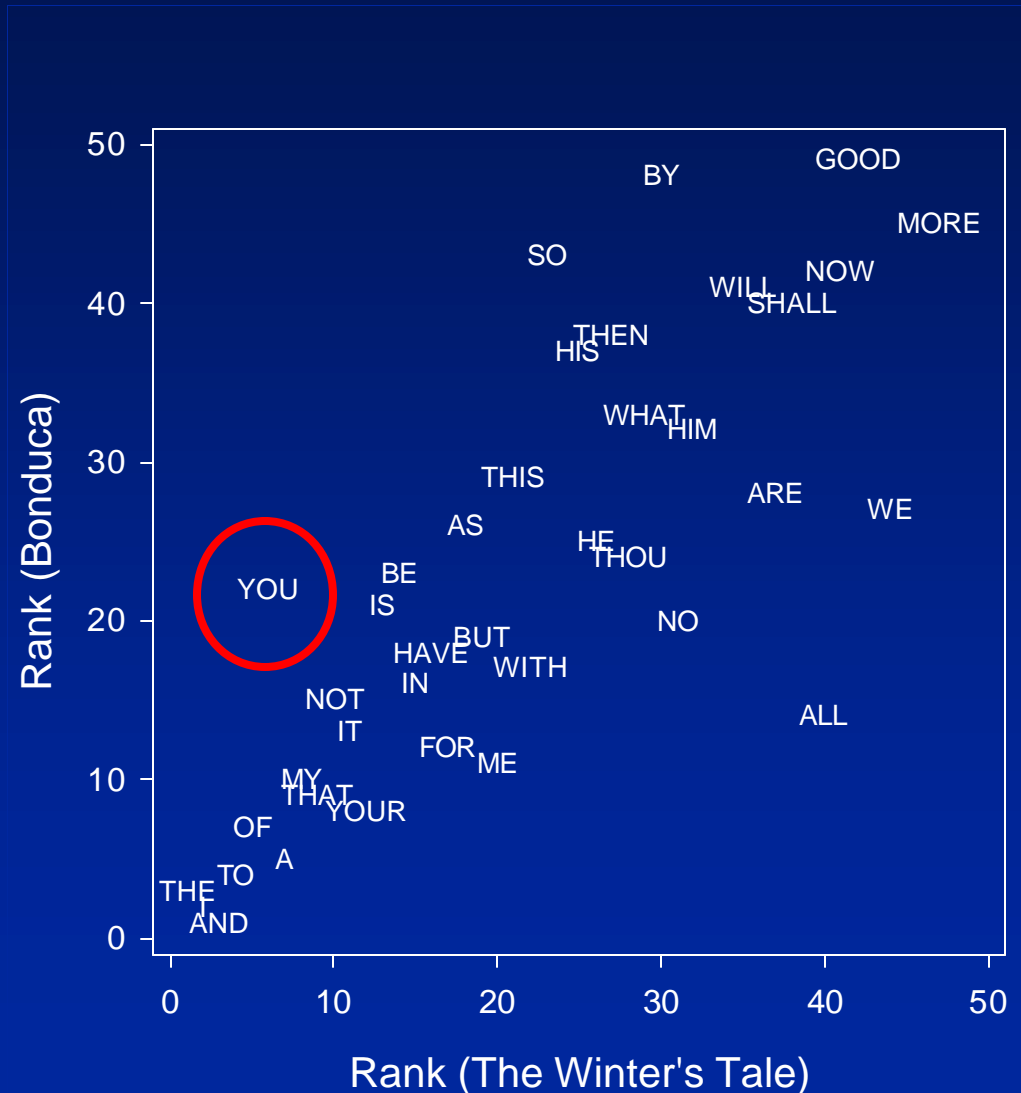
Illustration of our algorithm:

Comparison of human literary texts

Repetitive patterns: words

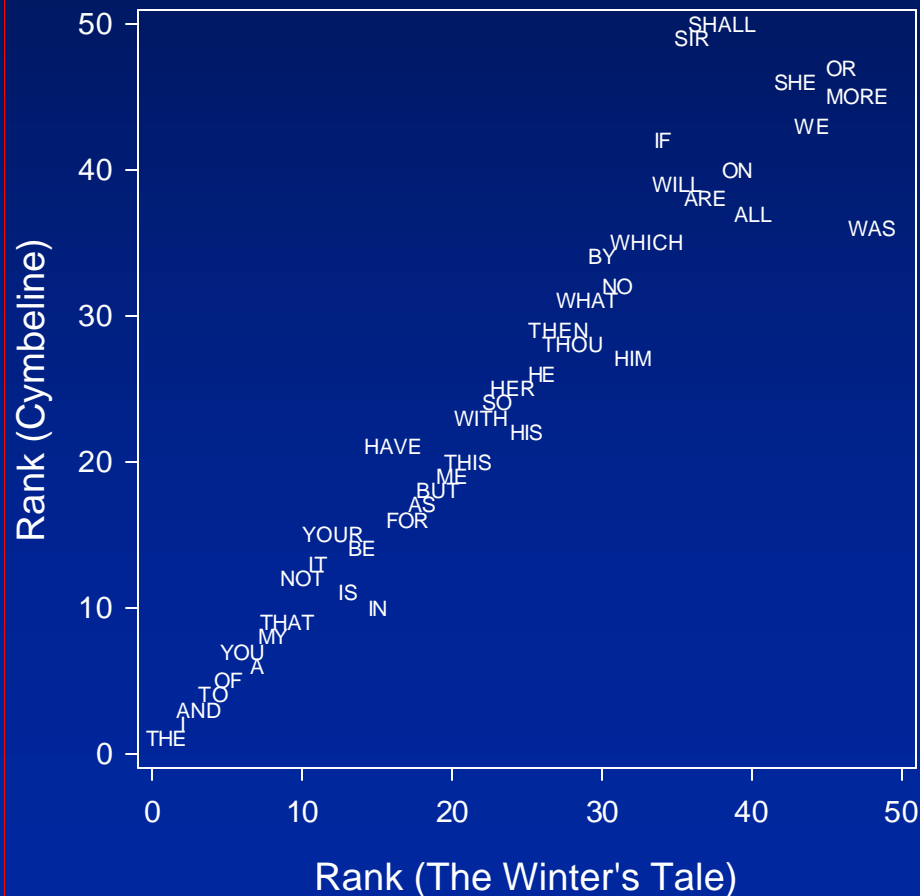
# Comparison of Human Texts

Word	Rank (The Winter's Tale)	Rank (Bonduca)
THE	1	3
I	2	2
AND	3	1
TO	4	4
OF	5	7
YOU	6	22
A	7	5
MY	8	10
THAT	9	9
NOT	10	15

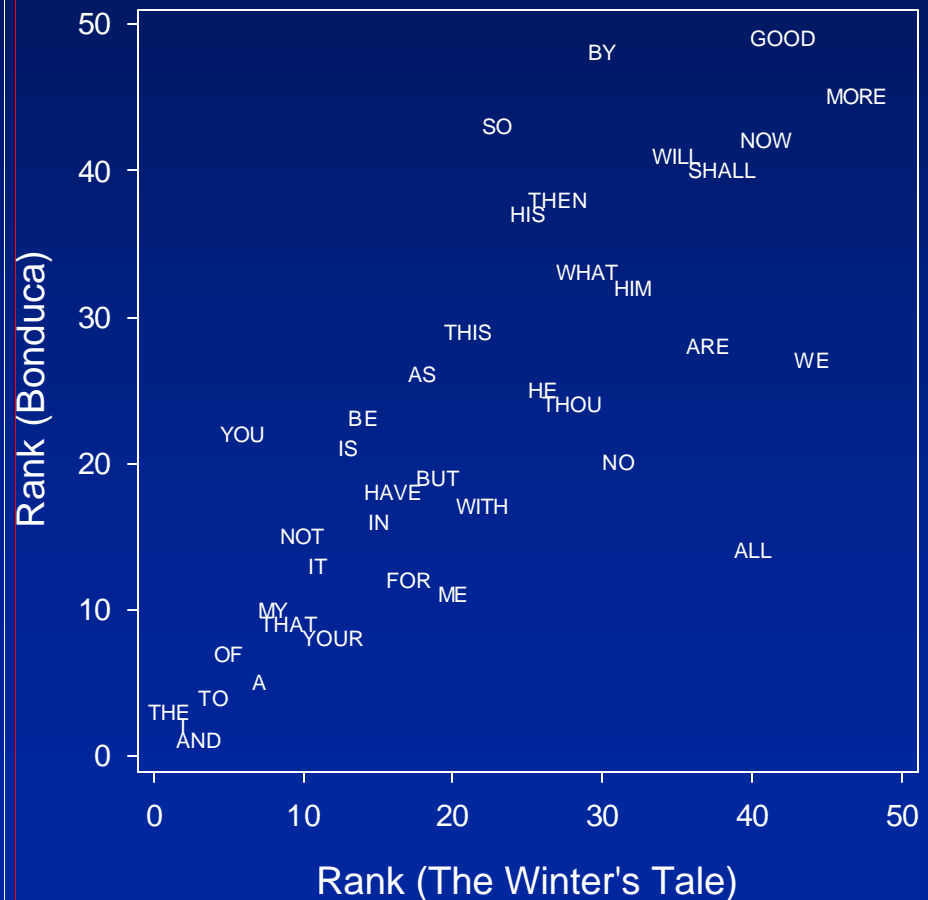


# Rank Comparison Maps

## Shakespeare vs. Shakespeare



## Shakespeare vs. Fletcher

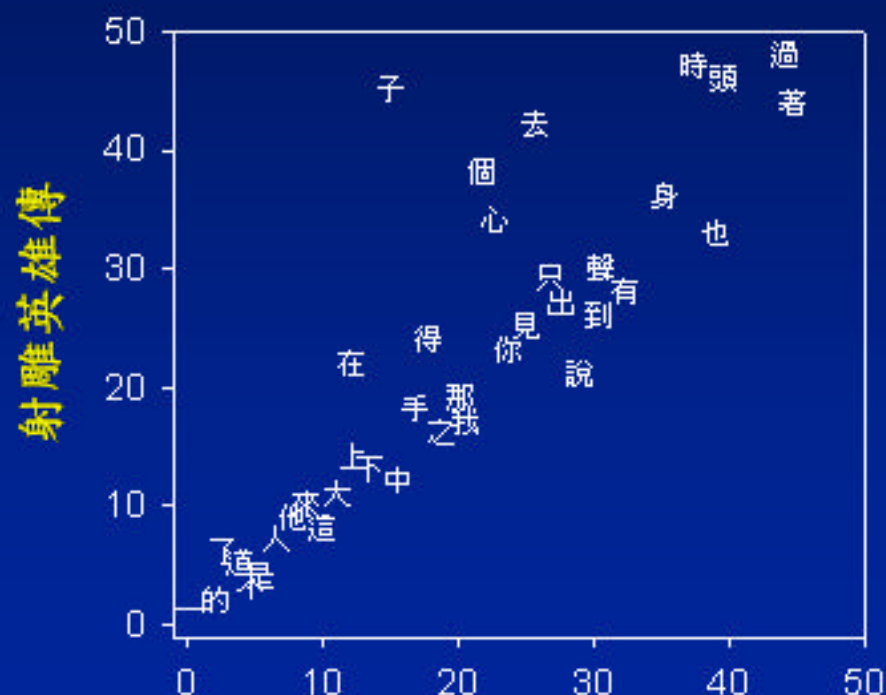






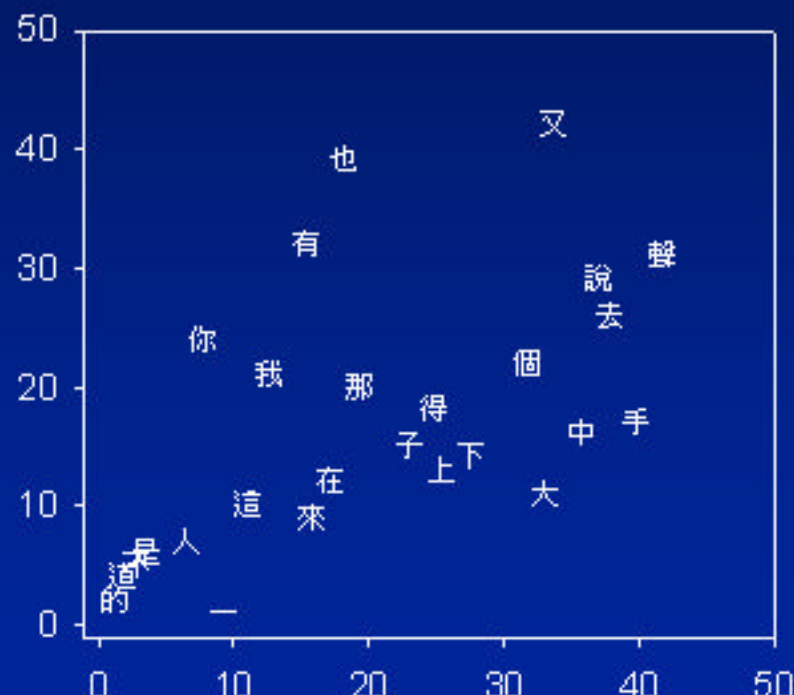
# Rank Comparison Maps

## Same Author



倚天屠龍記

## Different Authors

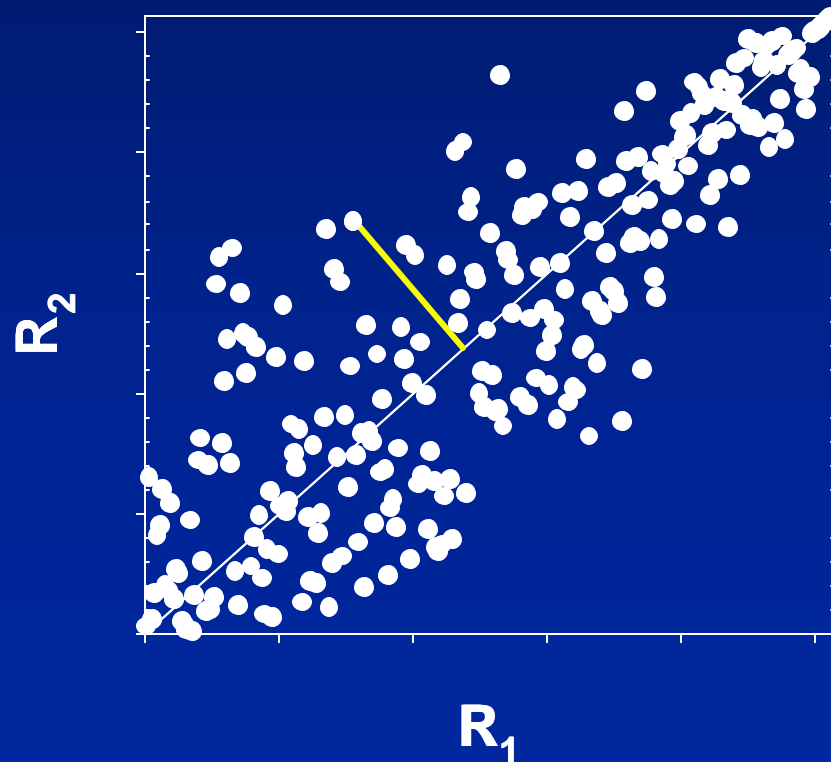


楚留香傳奇

# Dis-Similarity Index

$$D(S_1, S_2) = \sum_{k=1}^N |R_1(w_k) - R_2(w_k)| F(w_k)$$

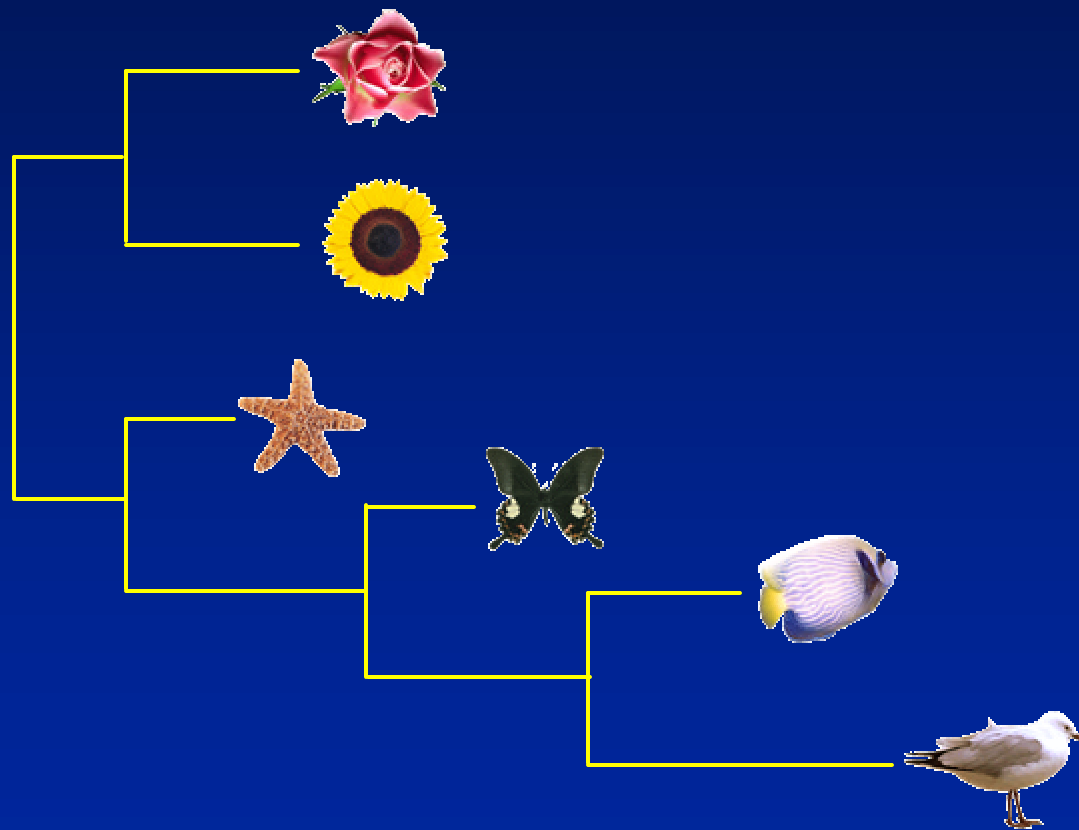
$$F(w_k) = \frac{1}{Z} [-p_1(w_k) \log p_1(w_k) - p_2(w_k) \log p_2(w_k)]$$



# Phylogenetic Tree Distance matrix method



# Phylogenetic Tree



# Authorship Problem



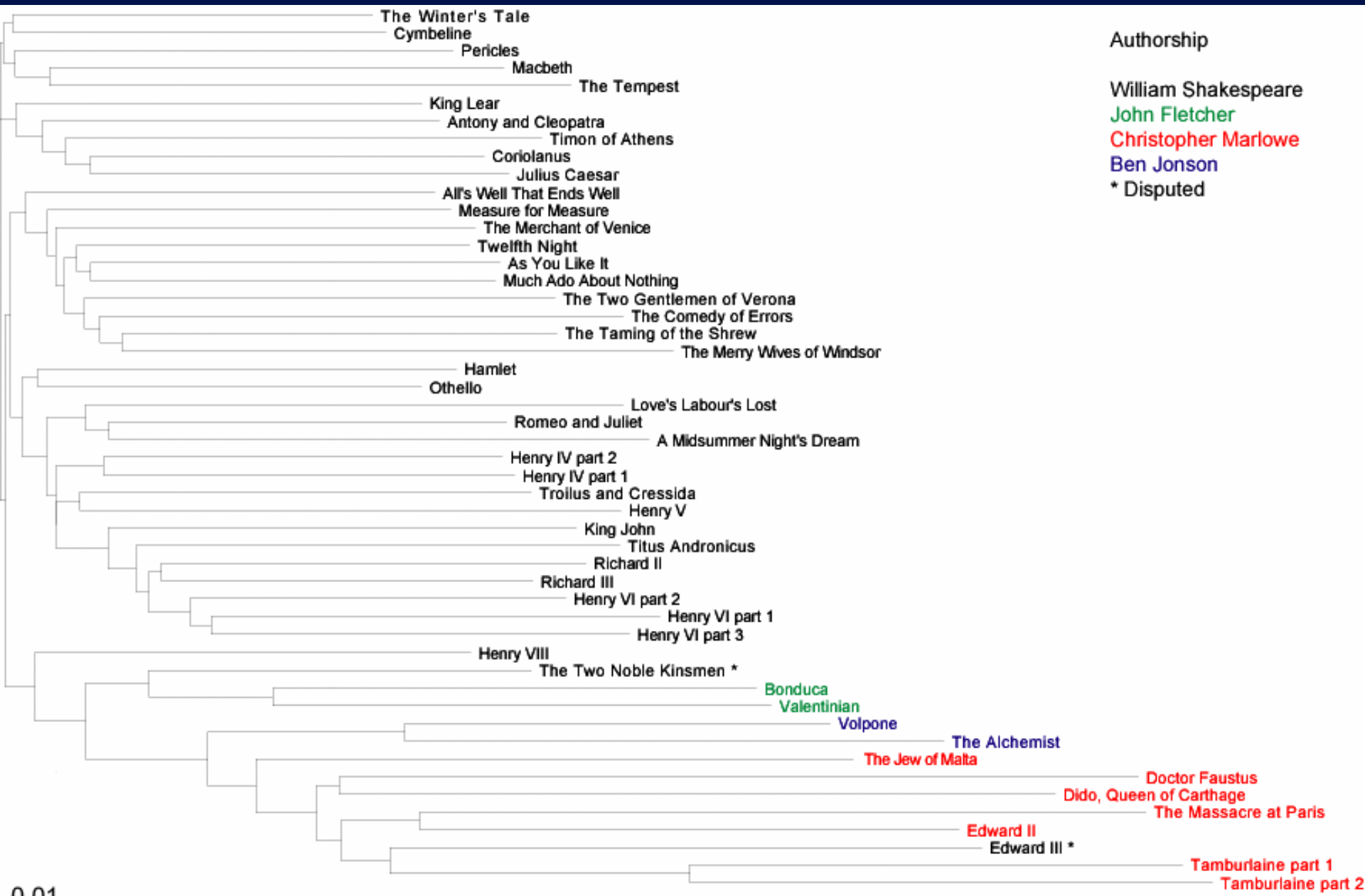
# Who Wrote Shakespeare's Plays?



Shakespeare



Marlowe



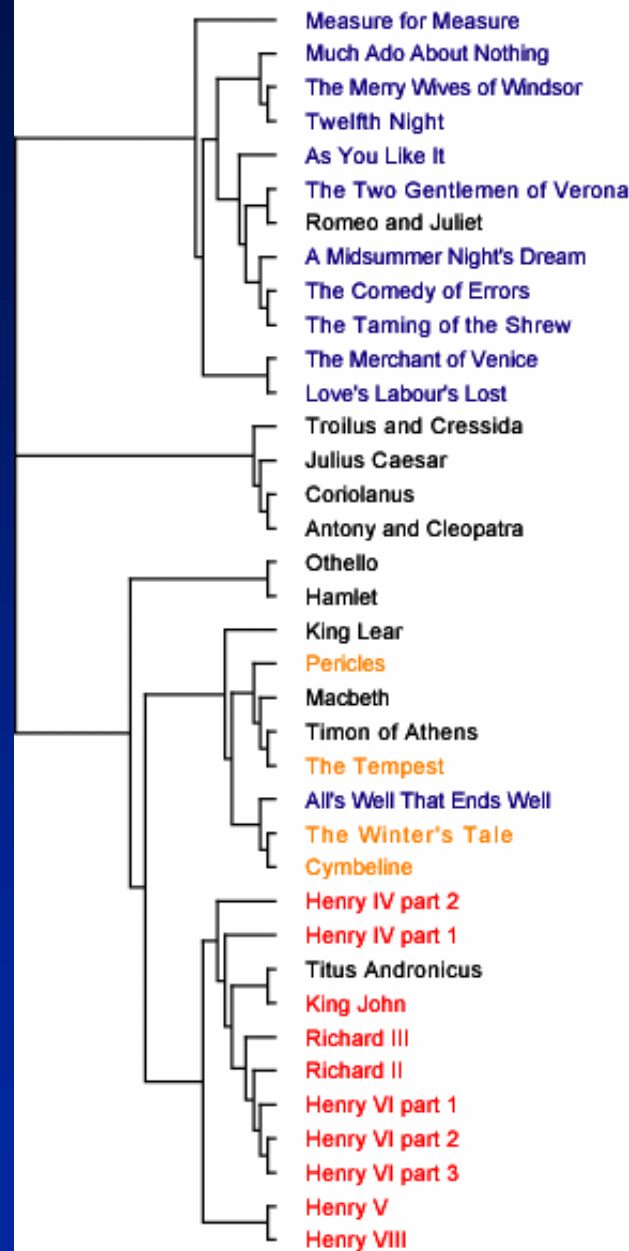
# Genre

Comedy

Romance

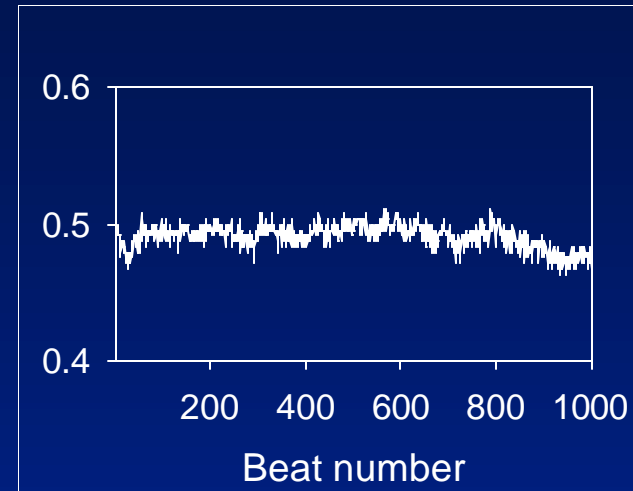
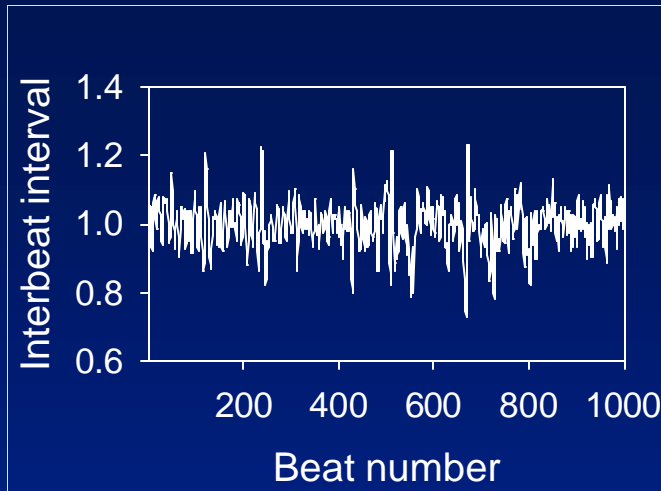
Tragedy

History



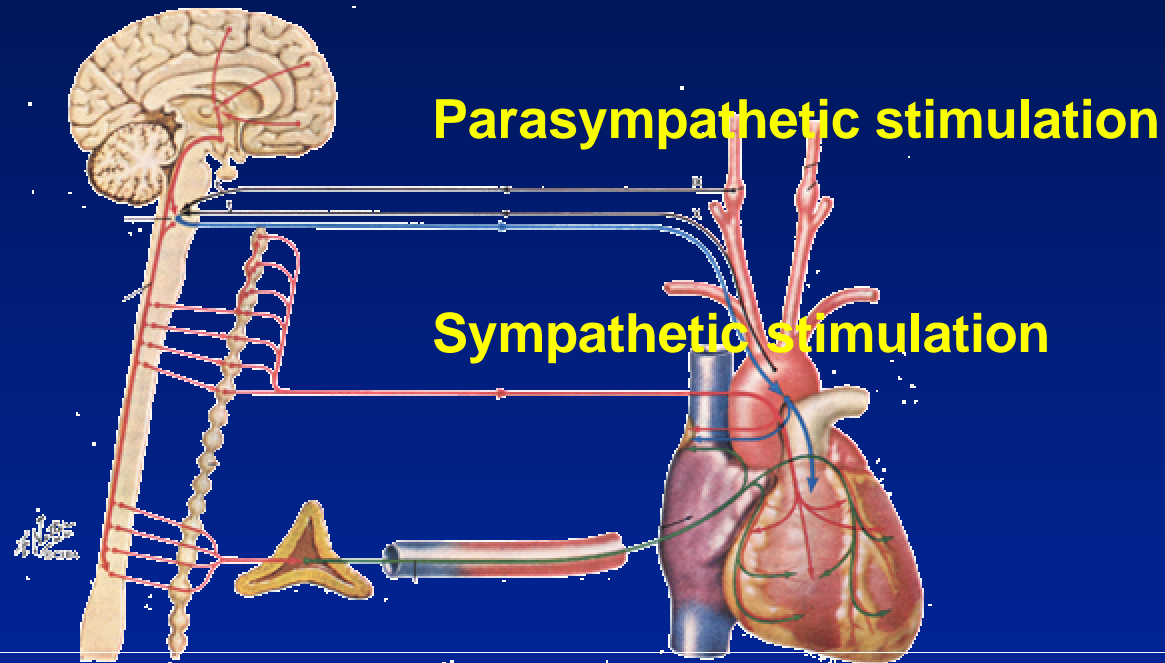


# Application to Heartbeat Time Series



- How to map a time series to a symbolic sequence?
- How to define *words* in symbolic sequences?

# Heart rate dynamics



# Symbolic Mapping

Step 1: Binary code representation

Increment of successive RR intervals can be mapped to 0 or 1

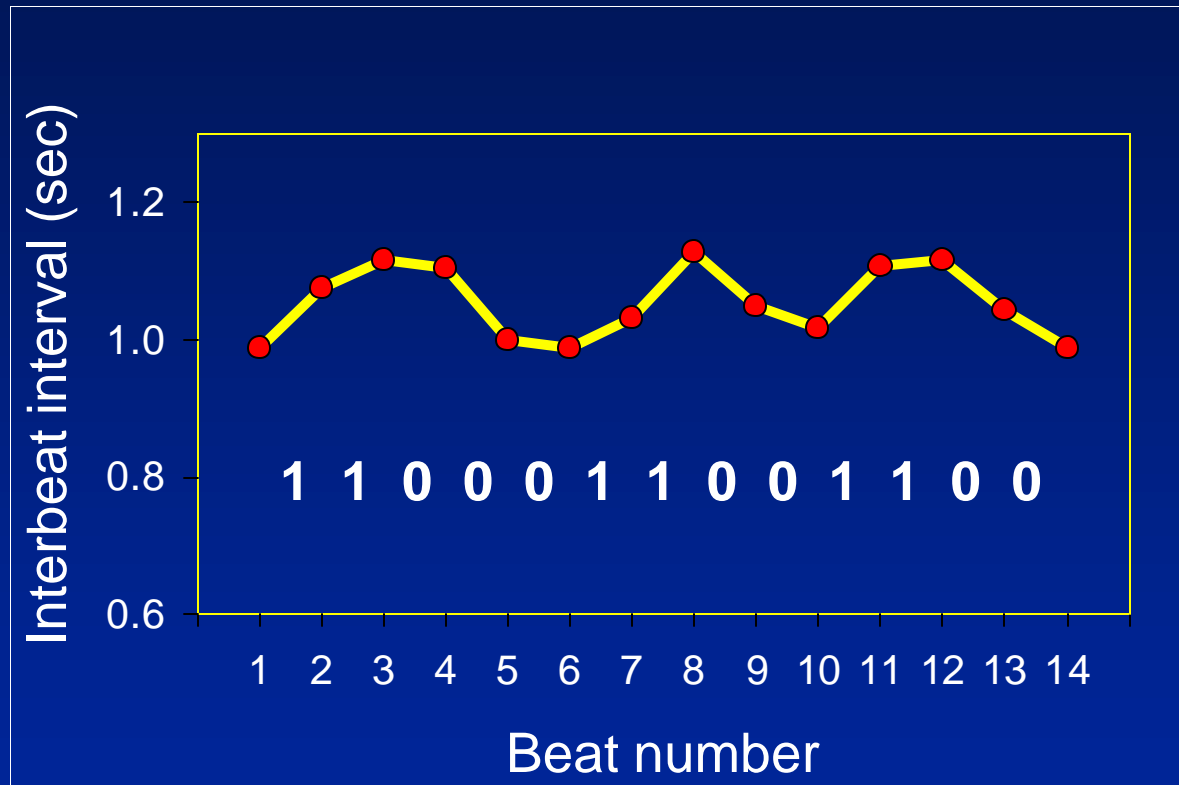
$$I_n = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x_n \leq x_{n-1} \\ 1, & \text{if } x_n > x_{n-1} \end{cases}$$

Ashkenazy et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 86, 1900 (2001).

Step 2: “Word” partitioning

m+1 successive RR intervals are mapped to a binary sequence of length m, called an **m-bit word**

# Symbolic Mapping

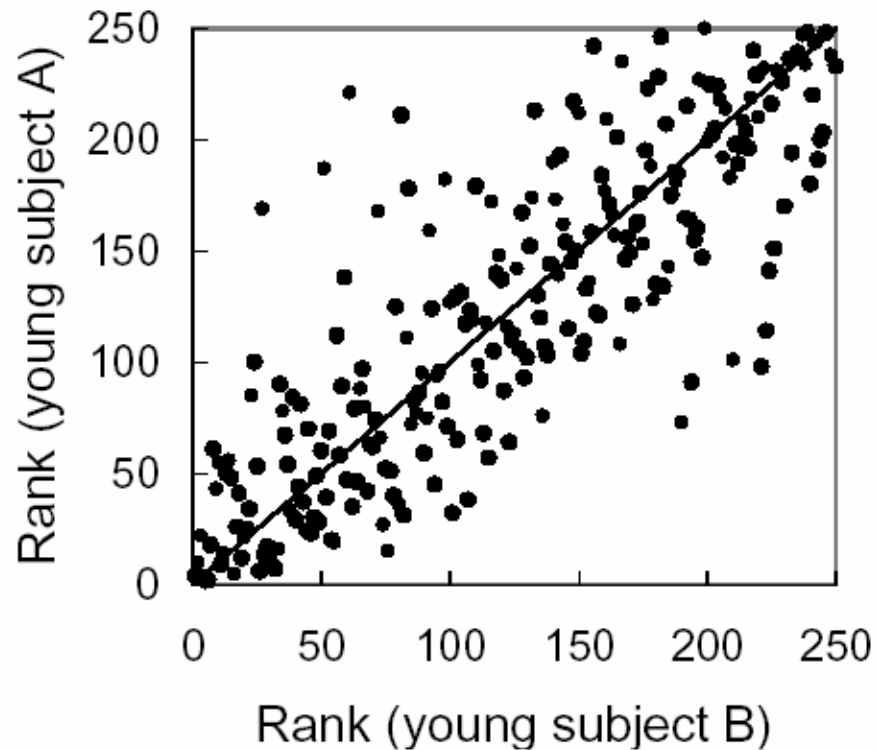


8-bit word: 11000110, 10001100, 00011001

# Scientific Questions

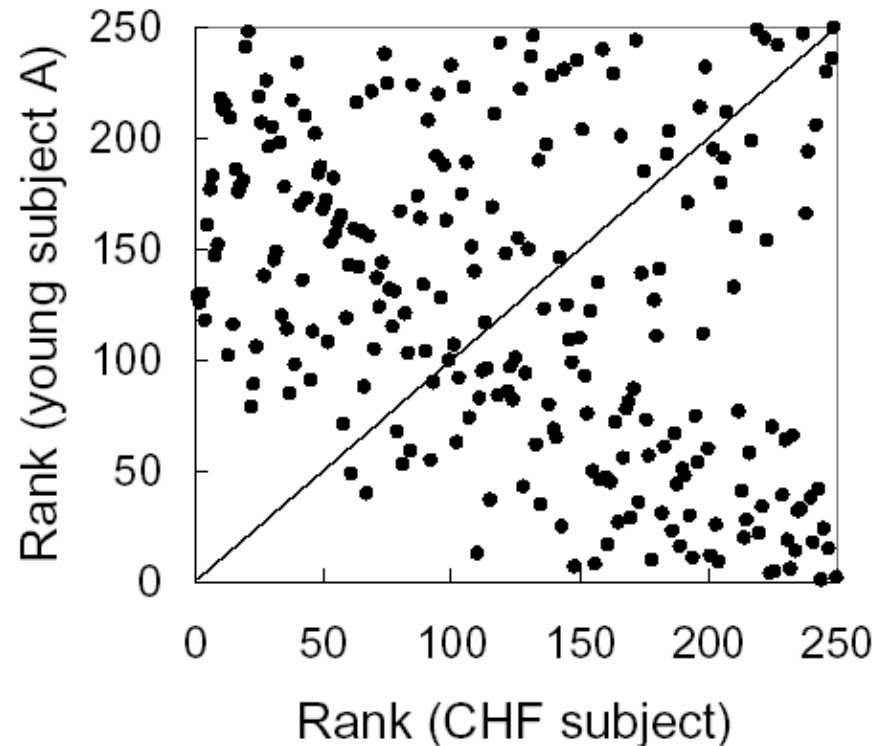
- As a healthy system is altered by disease and aging, can we quantify changes in the dynamical patterns?

## Health vs. Health



$D = 0.10$

## Health vs. Disease

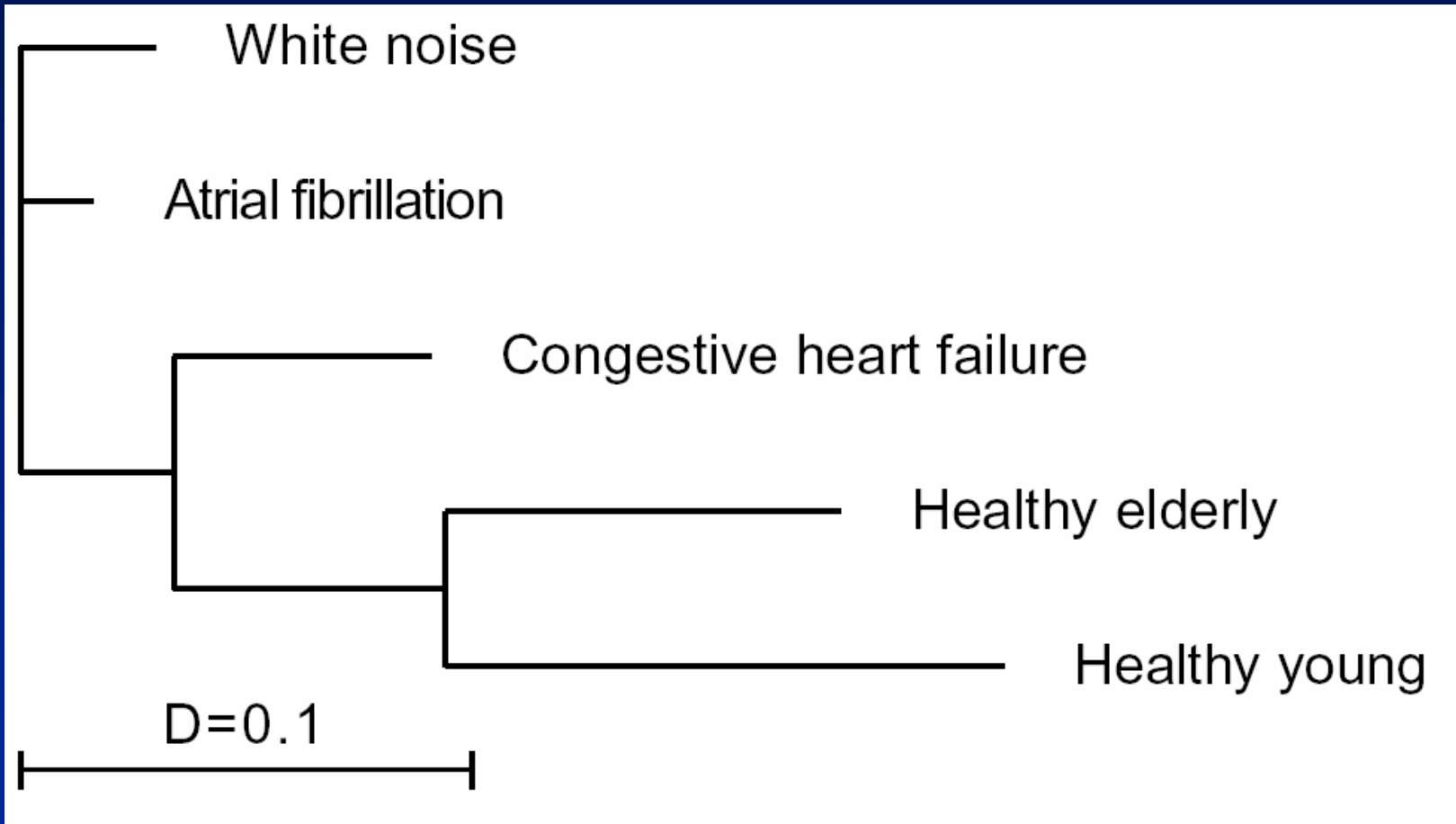


$D = 0.25$

**PhysioNet: [www.physionet.org](http://www.physionet.org)**  
**NIH Research Resource for Complex Physiologic Signals**

- Healthy subjects    2 hours
  - Young (10 male, 10 female, average 25.9 years)
  - Elderly (10 male, 10 female, average 74.5 years)
- Congestive heart failure database    16-24 hours
  - 15 female, 28 males, average 55.5 years
- Atrial fibrillation database    2 hours
  - 9 subjects
- White noise (random Gaussian noise)

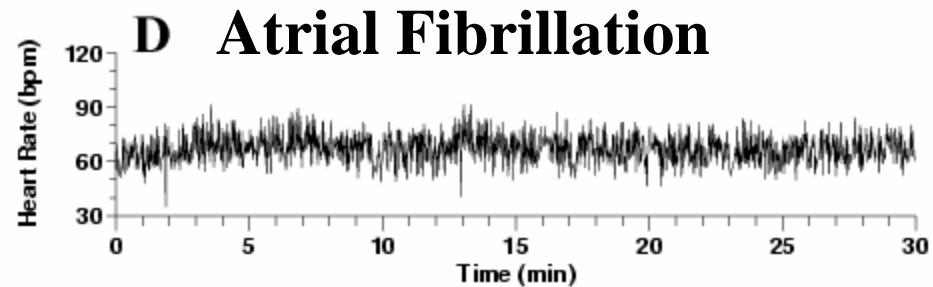
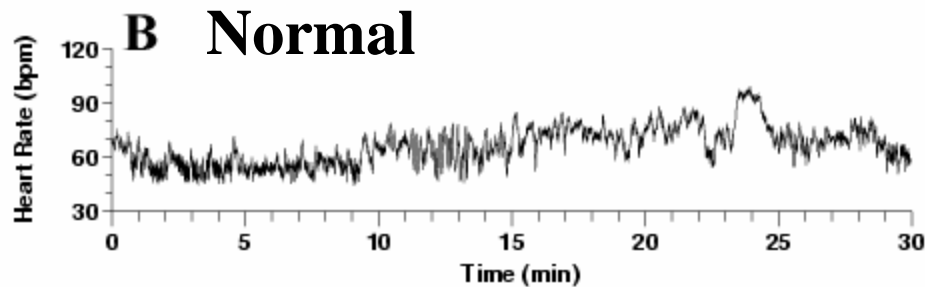
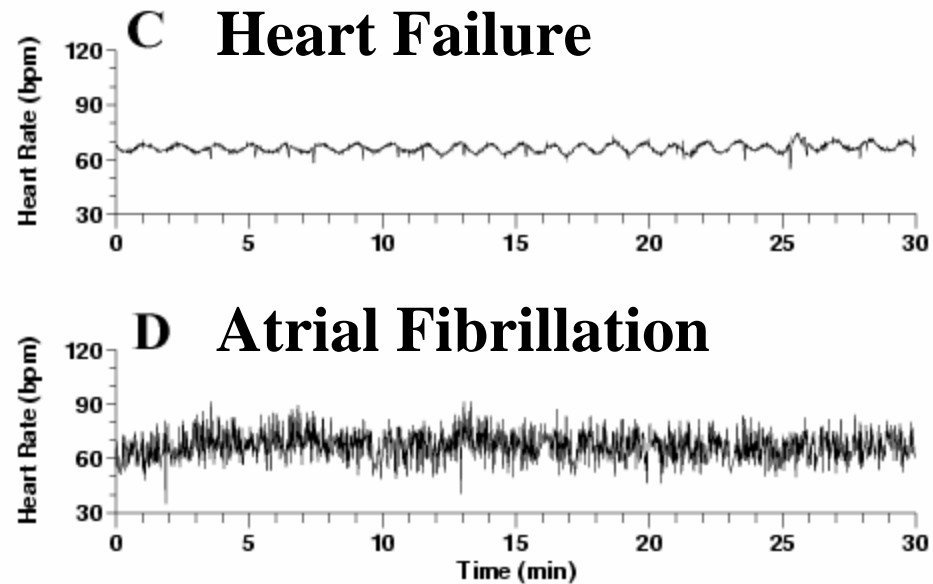
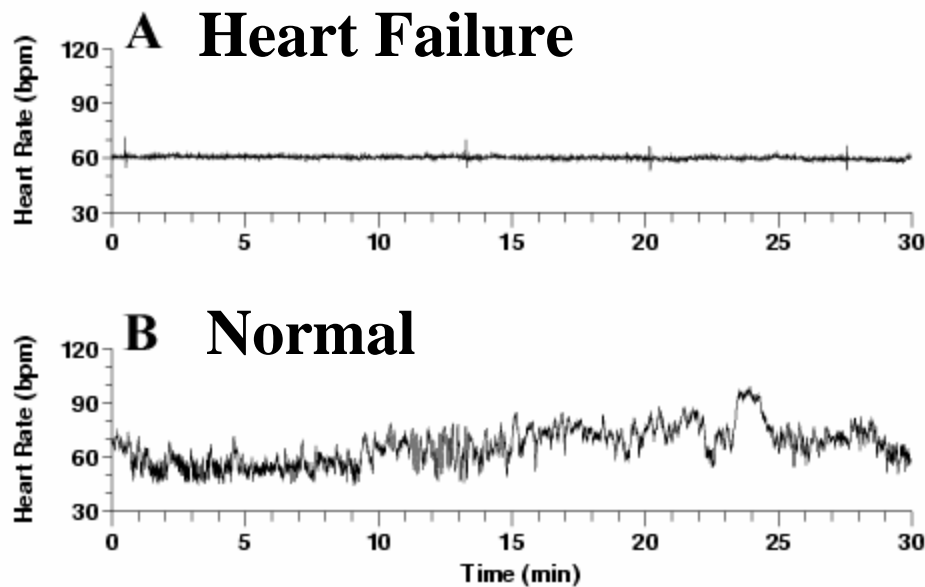
# Phylogenetic Tree



Yang *et al.* Phys Rev Lett, 2003; **90**: 108103



# Heart Rate Dynamics in Health and Disease

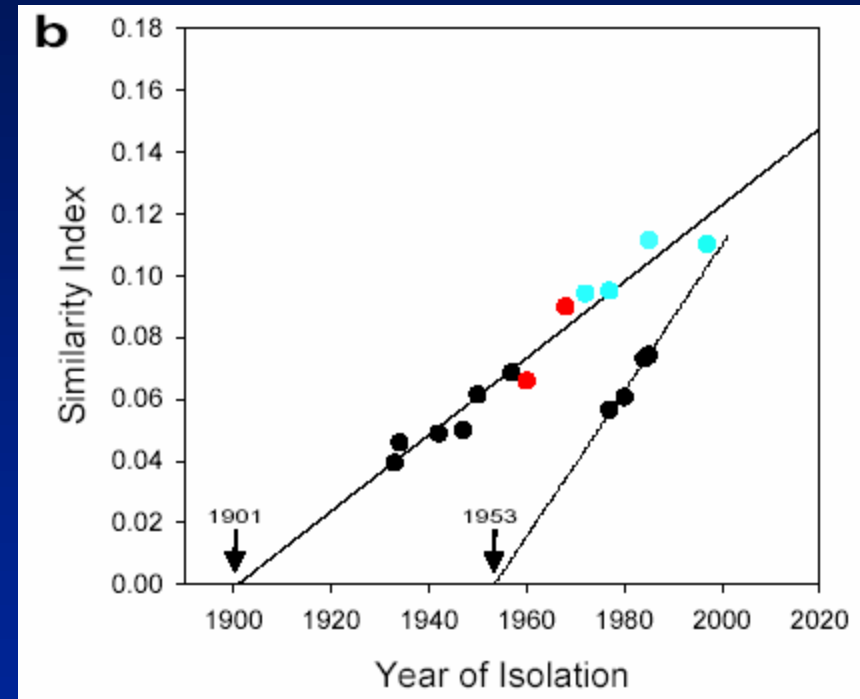
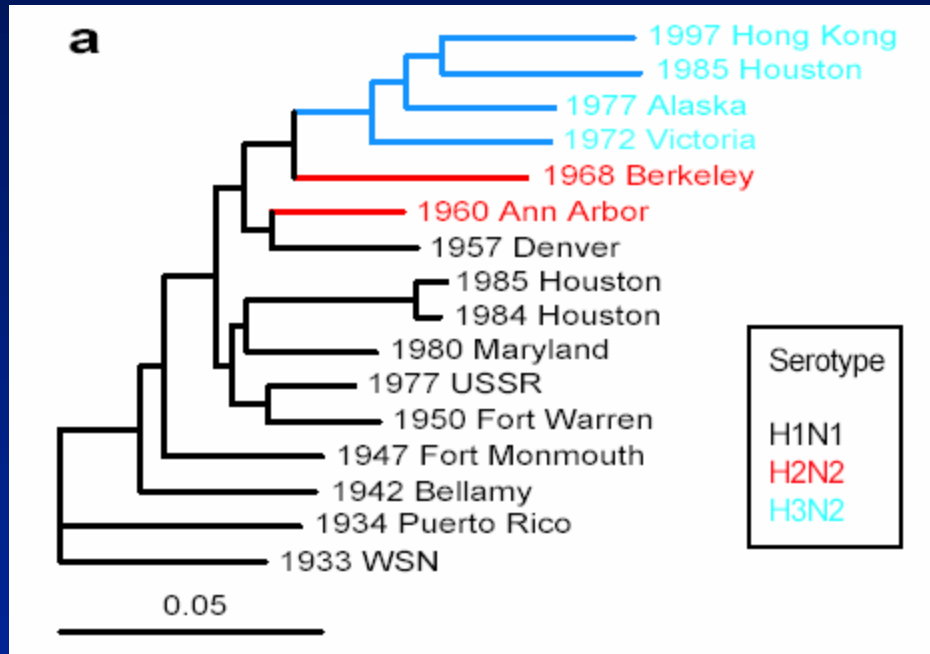


It is possible to categorize these time series!

# Other Applications

- Gene chip (micro-array) analysis
- Dynamics of sleep stage transitions
- EEG classification
- Image analysis (pathology)
- Psychiatric evaluation

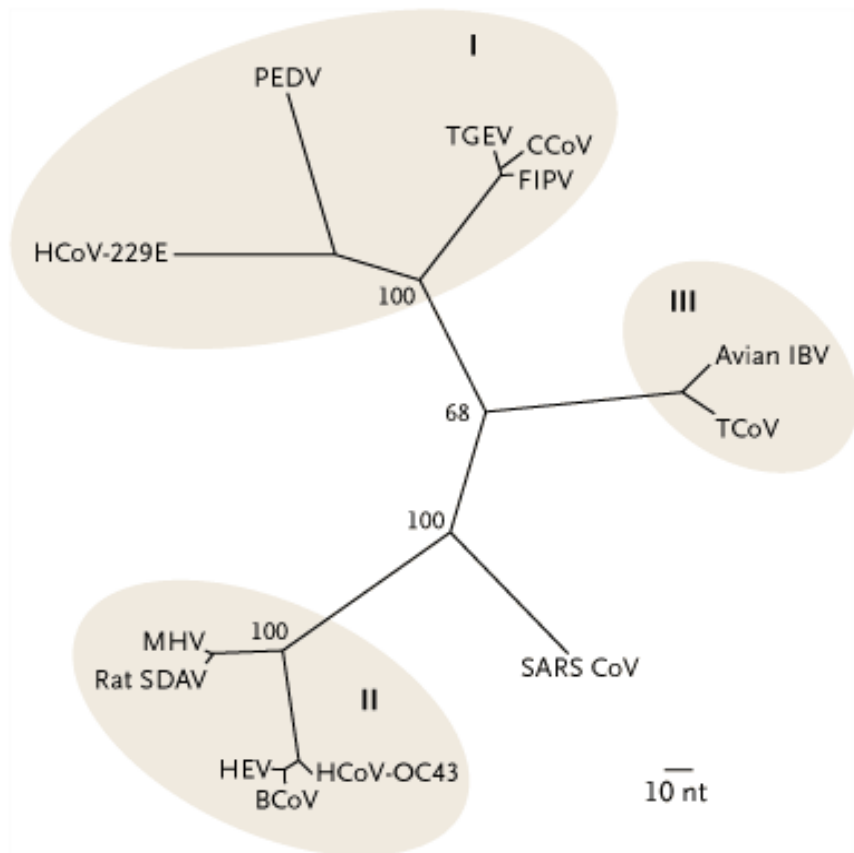
# Application to DNA Sequences: Human Influenza Virus



Our result is consistent with previous finding based on sequence alignment technique (*Science* 1986; **232**: 980)

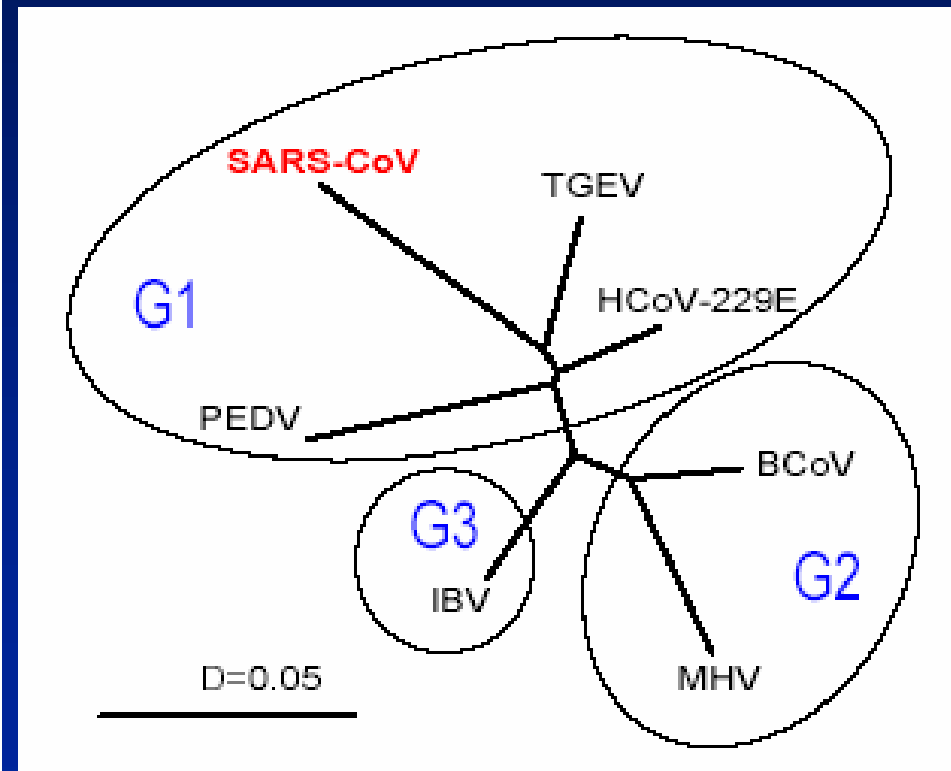
# Classification of SARS Virus (~29751 bps)

WHO Result (based on 405 bps)



N Engl J Med 2003; **348**: 1947

Our result (complete genome)



Yang, Goldberger, Peng. J Comput Biol  
2005;12:1103-1116

# Conclusions

- Biological signals are complex and contain hidden information
- Information categorization analysis based on repetitive elements may uncover certain interesting features relevant to modeling and diagnostics
- Applications range from literary texts, DNA sequences, to physiologic time series